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In teaching it is important to balance an effective understanding of your content with an effective understanding of your students. The multiplicity of students learning needs may not be immediately addressed when formulating a curriculum no matter how many strategies are employed. For this reason it is important to be engaged and invested in your students learning rather than focusing entirely on planning, of course the deeper the understanding you have of your content the more likely you are to have a strategy to engage a struggling learner readily available. I firmly believe this balance is key to becoming an effective teacher. When I have encountered teachers who have one of these traits but lack the other it becomes increasingly evident. I have encountered teachers who have masterful understanding of their subject matter and are truly brilliant in that area but lack the ability to engage a classroom and that knowledge often falls on deaf ears. Conversely I have had teachers who have great relationships with their students but lacked any passion or interest for their subject matter and while the students were engaged and enjoying the classroom experience they often didn't learn anything. When you find a teacher who is passionate about his or her material and passionate about their students learning, the classroom dynamic is changed drastically. A sense of affirmation and autonomy in the student I believe is key to motivating some of the more unmotivated students. When students feel that a teacher is genuinely concerned for their learning their interest in their learning will rise with it.